

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 9, 2004 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 15, 27, 39 and 46 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The text of claims 2-4, 16-20, 28-32 and 40 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

Claims 5-14, 21-26, 33-35, 37, 38, 41 and 44 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

With this amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, Applicant retains the right to present claims 5-14, 21-26, 33-35 and 37 in a divisional Application.

The Office Action states that Claims 38-40, 41-44, and 46-48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This amendment rewrites those claims as requested.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: 1/27/05



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